

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 3. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-6 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baghel et al. (U.S. 6,272,938) in view of Sireci (U.S. 2,381,698). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baghel et al. in view of Sireci, and further in view of Faivre (U.S. Patent No. 3,636,594). The Examiner indicated that Claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to included the allowable subject matter of claim 2, and claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claim 1, its corresponding dependent claims, and rewritten independent claim 3 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard C. Litman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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RCL:dht/rwg